



Offered by:

COUNCILORS FELIX G. ARROYO AND JOHN CONNOLLY

## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION OPPOSING QUESTION 3 ON THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

- WHEREAS:** Question 3 on the November Massachusetts General Election ballot would, if passed, cut the sales tax rate to 3%, a reduction of more than fifty percent from the current sales tax rate; and
- WHEREAS:** If passed, the Commonwealth would lose \$2.5 billion in revenue; and
- WHEREAS:** \$2.5 billion equals one-half of all state spending on our public schools, and is two and a half times as much money as the state spends each year on state universities and community colleges; and
- WHEREAS:** A drastic cut in the income tax will inevitably lead to reductions in local aid and cities and towns raising property taxes to make up the deficit. **BE IT**
- RESOLVED:** The Boston City Council, hereby assembled, resolves that the Council opposes Question 3 on the Massachusetts General Election Ballot and hereby encourages Boston residents to Vote No on Question 3.

Filed: October 19, 2010



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## **CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL**

### **RESOLUTION OPPOSING QUESTION 2 ON THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT**

- WHEREAS:** Question 2 on the November Massachusetts General Election ballot would, if passed, repeal the state's Affordable Housing Law (Chapter 40B); and
- WHEREAS:** The Affordable Housing Law sets a reasonable goal of requiring each community to have at least 10% of its overall housing stock be affordable; and
- WHEREAS:** The Affordable Housing Law accounts for 80% of the affordable housing built outside the major cities in the Commonwealth since its passage forty years ago; and
- WHEREAS:** Business leaders throughout the Commonwealth, such as Paul Guzzi of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Rick Lord of the Associated Industries of Massachusetts, and Greg Vasil of the Greater Boston Real Estate Board have all publicly opposed Question 2; and
- WHEREAS:** According to the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute, the Affordable Housing Law has generated \$9.25 billion in construction and related spending over the past ten years, and the 21,000 units planned under the law going forward would create an additional \$10.42 billion in spending.
- BE IT**
- RESOLVED:** The Boston City Council, hereby assembled, resolves that the Council opposes Question 2 on the Massachusetts General Election Ballot and hereby encourages Boston residents to Vote No on Question 2.

Filed: October 19, 2010



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## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION OPPOSING QUESTION 1 ON THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

- WHEREAS:** Question 1 on the November Massachusetts General Election ballot would, if passed, eliminate the sales tax on alcohol purchases.
- WHEREAS:** If passed, the Commonwealth would lose an estimated \$110 million in revenue; and
- WHEREAS:** This revenue is targeted towards providing health care services to 100,000 residents with alcohol and drug abuse problems; and
- WHEREAS:** The only goods presently exempted from the sales tax are necessities such as food, clothing, and prescriptions, not non-essential items like alcohol beverage purchases; and
- WHEREAS:** The present sales tax on alcoholic beverages helps deter underage drinking; and
- WHEREAS:** There are only five states in the entire country that do not impose a sales tax on alcoholic beverages, and the sales tax on beer is nearly three times higher in New Hampshire than it is in Massachusetts. **BE IT**
- RESOLVED:** The Boston City Council, hereby assembled, resolves that the Council opposes Question 1 on the Massachusetts General Election Ballot and hereby encourages Boston residents to Vote No on Question 1.

Filed: October 19, 2010